

The Mercer Cluster

MERCER UNIVERSITY, MACON, GEORGIA

November 1, 1960

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 5

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Hugh Burke

Last Sunday afternoon a Mercer ministerial student had the duty to tell several of his friends that Hugh Burke had died. The words he used were simple, uttered from a heart full of grief. "Hugh didn't quite make it."

Hugh was a Mercerian for only a few weeks; he had been graduated from Statesboro High School last spring. But in his brief stay at Mercer he became active in church and an BSU. He gave freely of the talent he had. He made close friends and acquaintances who admired him. But last weekend Hugh Burke went to the BSU convention and didn't make it back to his school.

But did Hugh make it? There is no doubt that we all were confronted with the harsh reality of death, and equally so with an existence in which people with good intentions can suddenly find themselves involved in tragedy. But we must press through this painful reality to other realities and ask if there are not some who can contribute to and find more in life in an hour than others do in a life time, and if the personal reality to whom Hugh Burke was committed can not turn the harshest tragedies of this existence into eternal significance.

Hugh Burke made it in response to the challenges that came in 18 years and knowing him and the reality to whom he was committed, he made it last Sunday too.

Tests Should Be Equal Yardstick

Mercer professors, in giving tests, should realize that examinations should be one equal measuring stick of the knowledge of the students in his class. There may be "brains" in the class; certainly there are those of varying average abilities, yet the same test is used to measure the accomplishments of them all.

Competition is keen. The average student might possibly put much more work into the course than the more gifted student, but on the tests, each student is measured by the same yardstick.

Certain professors have the habit of giving the same tests quarter in and quarter out. Students naturally obtain copies of these examinations through fraternity files and friends; study them and if the professors gives the same test, they have an advantage over their fellow students.

Such an advantage is not consistent with our general conception of fair play nor with standards of academic competition. Should one student suffer if he could not obtain a copy of the test from a friend or from his fraternity's files?

Copies of tests have a value in suggesting the type of questions a certain professor asks; they can serve as guides to the important points of a course, but professors should be beware of using old tests lest they unconsciously put one student in an advantage over another, thus measuring them by unequal yardsticks.

Flags Stand With Broom

Every nation has a banner, a flag which serves as a symbol of that for which the nation stands. Groups, too, have flags to suggest their aims, principles, and ideals. For example, the Christian flag.

The American people, especially, hold a formal respect for their flag. Poets have written about it; musicians have composed songs on it; artists have featured it in their drawings. Back in 1942 the Congress outlined certain rules for those who use the American flag. It must be handled with awe and respect.

While the Christian flag does not hold the same nation-wide respect that the American flag commands, it is respected and honored by many groups.

Mercer once had two flags, the American and the Christian, in Willingham chapel. They suggested that this institution had a responsibility both to the nation and to the Christian faith.

But now they have been removed from the chapel. For several weeks they have been honored with a corner position in the hall in the bottom floor of the administration building. Recently a broom and a



fishing rod, plus some odd bits of trash, were added to intensify the reverence due these flags.

How long are they going to remain there?

rithia

Freaks And Theology

Last week Flannery O'Connor was a guest speaker at Wesleyan during the annual Lamar Lecture Series. On Thursday afternoon she spoke of the contemporary Southern novelist who draws upon the grotesque. Miss O'Connor insisted that any writing will be labeled "grotesque" by a "Northern" reader "unless it is grotesque, in which case it will be called realistic."

She gave a very interesting explanation of why the Southerner does not confine characterization to men in grey-flannel suits. According to Miss O'Connor he deals with freaks for one reason. "He is still able to recognize one."

Why is the South still regarded as a place of the particular and the peculiar? Why is the South still "the South"? To some extent the answer may be found in the observation

that the concept of man in "the South" is still theological. The South cannot be called "Christ centered" but it is still "Christ haunted."

Allen Tate has insisted upon a strict distinction between the local and the provincial. The local is not necessarily synonymous with the provincial which implies a narrowness. The South of fundamentalism, haunted by its record of social injustices among other things, furnishes a certain safeness and richness through tradition. The contemporary Southern writer has the distinct advantage of a point on which to build; the distinct advantage of the locality and the hauntingness that somehow survives the shallowness of pretension. The South does not deserve to be called "Christ centered" but it has aptly been described as "Christ haunted."

Between Coffee and Existence

Time. Between fourth period and lunch and fifth period, time. Between conversation and sleeping and waking, time.

Between registration and term paper dead lines, time. Between the co-op and third floor administration building, time. Between the library and the drug store, time.

Between friends and enemies, time. Between people and friends, time. Between people and

not people, time. Between existing and coffee time.

"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in," but Thoreau's esthetically fragile gleam of words are tragically ill-at-ease after the words that have preceded and so the gleam of words should be unconnected and left to peace.

Because the time between existing and coffee is not a stream nor especially peace. But it is time and also slips away.

NANCY MINTER

Pomegranates and Hospitality

Doesn't anyone besides Persephone and me like pomegranates? Fruit for the gods, they are—like so many sparkling rubies, with a bittersweet taste that makes common fruit like apples look sick.

But I digress. Pomegranates are not my topic. Where they came from is.

Along the way to Atlanta, just outside one of those little towns that must be concentrated to be noticed, stands a big square home surrounded by the usual farm buildings, pieces of machinery, and some fruit trees. On its back porch are a well, a tomato plant, flowers and two white cats. The view from the rocking chairs includes lush meadows, big trees and vestiges of cattle.

It's not listed in a tourist's catalogue of Georgia but to a library-and-meeting weary

collegiate who hasn't been home in six weeks it was the essence of peace, though not her own home.

New southern hospitality decorates the interior of that house. The traditional crackling fire on the hearth and offering of six different tempting snacks were available, but there were, too, the comfort of a lounge chair and the Sunday night pleasantness of Danny Kaye smiling from the corner T.V. Greeting gently and talking easily, the host couple whiled away the time with an ease that forgot the collegiate was a stranger.

"Good night and come again" rang sincerely in the ears of the collegiate, who now armed with tranquility and two pomegranates, returned to the library and meetings more than ever aware of the goodness of Georgia country.

Letter To The Editor

Nov. 1, 1960

VANDERHOEF ANSWERED

Dear Editor:

The Winning Team: Nixon and Lodge

"There is no man in the history of America who has had such a careful preparation as has Vice President Nixon for carrying out the duties of the Presidency," says President Eisenhower.

Former President Truman, addressing his remarks to Senator Kennedy, said, "Senator, are you certain that you are quite ready for the country or that the country is ready for you in the role of President in January, 1961? I am greatly concerned and troubled about the situation we are up against in the world now and in the immediate future. That is why I would hope that someone with the greatest possible maturity and experience would be available at this time."

In these times of crisis there's no time for "on-the-job" training of a new President. The Nixon-Lodge ticket has experience, ability and maturity of judgment. Together these two men have served in the House, Senate, Cabinet, National Security Council, State Department and Armed Forces.

Richard Nixon has traveled on five continents and 54 countries, meeting presidents, prime ministers and citizens of all classes. Cabot Lodge has dealt effectively with the representatives and leaders of all the countries of the UN.

On the domestic scene, Vice President Nixon respects the rights of the individual, a principal which has made America great. He believes in creating even greater opportunities for the individual in a free enterprise system. He wants the states to assume greater responsibility entrusted to them by our Constitution.

All this is in direct opposition to the Kennedy-Johnson ticket. They believe Americans can no longer be trusted to lead their own destiny, but must be led about by an all-powerful central government.

The Nixon farm program would aid the farmer while putting the surplus to use for the hungry at home and abroad.

The Kennedy program would raise food prices around 25%, according to a Department of Agriculture study.

The Democrats say that under Eisenhower 1 1/2 million farmers left the farms. What they don't say is that under Truman the figure was 1 1/2 million and under Roosevelt 7 1/2 million.

In his acceptance speech, Senator Kennedy said America must make "great sacrifices." He has never named these sacrifices. Maybe, he means higher taxes! (It would be necessary to pay for the big-spending programs he advocates). Maybe he means higher food prices! (as the Agriculture Department survey shows). Maybe he means we must give away more free world territory! (As Truman and Roosevelt did in giving away most of Asia and Eastern Europe, and Senator Kennedy now says we must do with Quemoy and Matsu). Maybe he means we must appease the enemy and take peace at any cost! (The last three Democratic administrations tried this and in each case we ended up in war. Now Sen. Kennedy says we must apologize to Khrushchev).

As for the South's place in the election, it was the Chairman of the Democratic party who told the South to "get out." It was Sen. Kennedy who said he "didn't need them" and "could win without them." And it was the Kennedy brothers who directly intervened in the affairs of Georgia in the Martin Luther King case.

In domestic and foreign programs, in experience, ability and maturity, the ticket of Richard Nixon and Cabot Lodge far exceeds the Democratic standard-bearers. For this reason the Republican ticket should be elected on November 8.

Sincerely,
College Youth-for-Nixon

Ed's Note: This letter was not edited.